

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, the claims pending in the subject application are 19-36. Reconsideration of this application based on the Amendments and Remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

It is acknowledged that claims 35 and 36 are allowed.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 21 was objected to for stating "not curing" the primer layer that was previously cured. The claim has been amended to more clearly indicate that the step recited in claim 21 b) is a step that occurs prior to the curing step in claim 19. It is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is in proper form by more clearly indicating the performance of a step prior to the recited step in claim 19.

35 U.S.C. §112 REJECTIONS

Claims 19-34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is rendered moot with the cancellation of the curing temperature for the electrocoat.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In 2), there was no antecedent basis for "the aqueous basecoat material" when 1) a) was chosen. Claim 19 has been amended to split step 2) so that when 1) a) is chosen, the reference is to "an aqueous basecoat material". It is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is not indefinite.

Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is rendered moot with the cancellation of claim 37.

35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

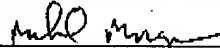
Claims 19-20, 22, 25-27, and 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,756,975 to Fuji et al.

In the previous office action mailed on March 16, 2004, the subject matter of claim 23 was indicated as being allowable. The allowable subject matter from claim 23 for 1) a) has been added to claim 19 in step 1) a). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19-20, 22, 25-27, and 32-33 are patentable over United States Patent No. 4,756,975 to Fuji et al.

Claims 28-29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,756,975 to Fuji et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,291,564 to Faler et al. Claims 28-29 and 31 depend from independent claim 19. From above, claim 19 is patentable over the cited references. Therefore, claims 28-29 and 31 are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 USC §103 and §112 rejections, and request that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 19-36. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 27 August 2004